

Legislative year ends with support for Wyoming National Guard

By Deidre Forster

Public Affairs Officer

Wyoming National Guard

Land and lead are two issues the Wyoming Military Department received support for from the Wyoming State Legislature during its 2004 budget session in February.

The legislature appropriated \$3.9 million to allow the department to purchase ranch land bordering parts of Camp Guernsey's North Training Range, in Platte County. The money will allow the purchase of 6,000 acres, as well as the ability to pursue other adjacent property purchases.

Maj. Gen. Ed Wright, the adjutant general, said he is

See Legislature

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Photo by Sgt. Kevin S Abel

Capt. James Schmidt makes his speech to the Wyo. Senate about the Wyoming National Guard and the 4th Infantry Division, Rear Operations Center in Iraq.

Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron transports fragile quadruplet cargo

By Maj. Tom Jackson and Master Sgt. Dan Lyon

Wyoming Air National Guard

The Wyoming Air National Guard's 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron is a veteran of both Gulf wars and the infamous "Bloody Sunday" event in Mogadishu, Somalia. Constantly striving to add variety to their medical experience, a unique opportunity to conduct a very different type of mission, to support four tiny patients, was presented to the unit in November.

The four patients, quadruplets, were born Sept. 24, 2003. The three boys and one girl were born almost 10 weeks premature and weighed almost half of what

full-term babies weigh. Nathan, Brian and Jason would require oxygen assistance during the flight. Cassie was able to breathe independently.

The mission originated at the request of a former Wyoming Air National Guard pilot, Leonard Kearl.

His son, Capt. Leonard Kearl, and his wife, Jackie, were parents of newborn quadruplets, he said. Jackie had been staying with her parents in Utah while her husband, assigned to an F-15 squadron, was deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The babies were born while his son was still deployed.

After completing his

See Operation Baby Lift

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Guard liaisons thoughts

By Maj. Gen. Ed Wright
Adjutant General
Wyoming National Guard

In this article, I would like to review one of the Wyoming Military Department's initiatives related to our state mission of

homeland security. As you know, two years ago, state law was changed so WEMA, Wyoming Emergency Management Agency, moved away from our department to the Wyoming Department of Homeland Security.


Since that time, we have continued a very close and professional relationship with the new department and its director, Joe Moore.

Recently the Wyoming State Legislature passed House Bill 144 which outlined the state's six Regional Response Teams as a means of

responding to state emergencies. In the same session, Gov. Dave Freudenthal recommended an \$8,000 increase to the Wyoming Military Department budget which will allow the Wyoming National Guard to participate in, and be paid for, the state's emergency exercises for the next two years.

In conjunction with the Wyoming Department of Homeland Security, we hope to have Wyoming National Guard representatives, liaisons, at every county emergency management group, as well as at the six Regional Response Teams.

In the next few months, job descriptions for the liaisons will be drafted. It is anticipated these liaisons may be Army or Air, traditional or full-time guardsmen who are passionate about public safety in their community or county and would like to be a liaison between the National Guard and local or regional emergency management groups.

The timeline and selection process for our National Guard liaisons will be processed through the deputy chief of staff for operations. 

The new joint headquarters: What does it mean?

By Col. Steve Smith

Joint Headquarters Chief of Staff Wyoming National Guard

On Oct. 1, 2003, all states and territories were directed, by National Guard Bureau Chief Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, to implement a Joint Headquarters.

Creating this organization has caused much confusion nationwide, and currently all 54 states and territories have different programs. NGB has advised that there will soon be a joint document released to formally create the organization. That document will take positions from the Army Table of Distribution and Allowances and the Air Unit Manning Document and place them into one joint organization.

Although the positions will be in a joint organization they will remain Army and Air positions, staffed from those two organizations. Wyoming's


Joint Headquarters is planned to be fully organized and operational by fiscal year 2006.

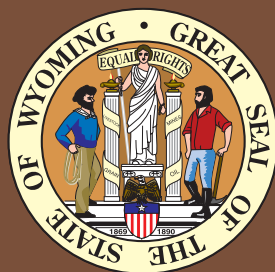
At this time, the Wyoming Joint Headquarters is a provisional organization, beginning to absorb the full-time functions that are truly joint.

When fully operational, there will be only one headquarters in each state and territory, allowing state and national agencies requiring civil assistance to contact and deal with one organization.

It is also planned that the new headquarters will include other military services and agencies to ensure all resources available can be brought to bear on any emergency.

As you no doubt will ask, "How can that be?"

We're not sure yet, but we are moving forward toward Blum's vision and will report as directions are received. 



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graphic submissions should be 300 dpi or more. All submissions will be edited for length and content.

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Army, Air Guard welcome new leaders

Senior leadership in the Wyoming National Guard has seen a number of changes in recent months. Units, groups and organizations all have been adjusting to life under new commanders.

Wyoming Air National Guard

Col. Dennis Grunstad assumed the position of 153rd Airlift Wing vice commander in an early February ceremony. Grunstad, a C-130 pilot, joined the Wyoming Air National Guard in 1991 after spending eight years on active duty. He vacated his previous position as 153rd Operations Group commander to Lt. Col. Steve Rader.

Rader served four years as an enlisted airman on active duty before joining the Wyoming Air National Guard in 1983. He turned over his position as 187th Airlift Squadron commander to Maj. Paul Lyman.

Lyman is a navigator with the squadron and has been with the Wyoming Air National Guard for five years. Previously, on active duty, he served as an F-15 navigator.


Lt. Col. Dave Sullivan, in the same ceremony, took command of the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. For the last 10 years, Sullivan served as the squadron's chief of operations.

Wyoming Army National Guard

Col. Tim Sheppard assumed the position of Wyoming Army National Guard chief of staff at the end of March. Sheppard replaces Col. Larry Barttelbort who is retiring in the fall. Most recently Sheppard served as the Wyoming Army National Guard deputy chief of staff for operations and as commander of Camp Guernsey.

Lt. Col. Greg Porter assumed command duties for the 94th Troop Command. 94th Troop Command, located in Laramie, serves as a command and control unit for roughly half the soldiers in the Wyoming Army National Guard.

Capt. Nona Nissen is the new commander for one of the 94th Troop Command units, the 1041st Engineer Company. Nissen previously served as the unit's executive officer, deploying with it to Fort Polk, La. in 2003.

Col. Olin Oedekoven assumed command of the rear detachment of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade. Roughly half the unit is deployed to Kuwait and under the command of Col. Martin Kidner. Oedekoven will oversee the brigade's responsibilities, to include battalions in three states. 

Uniform changes effect Army and Air personnel

The Army and Air Force recently established policies outlining new items for wear on the Army BDU and the Air Force service dress jacket.

Metallic nametags mandated for Air Force

The Air Force has established both the mandatory wear date and proper wear for the new metallic nametag on service dress uniforms and pullover sweaters.

Effective Jan. 1, the nametag must be worn on the wearer's right side of the service dress jacket with the bottom of the nametag level with the bottom of the ribbons, said Air Force Personnel Center officials.

It should be centered between the sleeve seam and the lapel.


The nametag will also be worn on pullover sweaters on the wearer's right side with the bottom of the nametag centered between the middle of the sleeve seam and the seam of the neckline. It will not be worn on the cardigan sweater.

Reverse flag insignia ordered for Army

In February Gen. Peter Schoomaker, chief of staff of the Army, approved implementation of the addition of the reverse-side full-color U.S. flag for utility uniforms to reflect the fact the U.S. Army for the foreseeable future is an expeditionary Army.

Uniforms requiring the flag include: BDU, Desert BDU, maternity BDU, cold weather coat or field jacket, aircrew BDU, and the Combat Vehicle Crewman Uniform.



The patch is to be sewn one-half inch below the right shoulder seam of the uniform. If a shoulder sleeve insignia is worn on that uniform, the flag is sewn one-eighth of an inch below it. 

Army, Air Guard join forces for security

By Deidre Forster

Public Affairs Officer

Wyoming National Guard

Last year 33 Wyoming Army National Guard soldiers were activated to perform force protection duties in a foreign environment for an unfamiliar organization: the Wyoming Air National Guard.

In January 2003, the soldiers were activated to augment security operations at the Air Guard base in Cheyenne. The activation was part of an agreement between the Department of the Army and the Department of the Air Force to relieve current Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel who had been mobilized, at that time, for more than a year.

The 153rd Security Forces Squadron looked upon the activation skeptically, to say the least, said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Stephens, 153rd Security Forces Squadron chief of security.

"Typically augmentees are your sick, your lame, your problems, but we found out really quickly (the soldiers) were highly motivated and enthusiastic," he said. "They adapted so well to the program our confidence level is much higher than we thought it would be."

In fact, they adapted so well the soldiers were named the Wyoming Air National Guard's Honorary Top Cops of 2003.

"They definitely have been a tremendous asset," Stephens said. "Without blowing smoke I would say they fit in very well."

The soldiers' original orders were for one year, with the possibility of a one-year extension. Thirty-one of the original 33 soldiers were extended through the end of

2004; the other two opted to return to their civilian jobs.

A number of bases using Army National Guard soldiers for security have not had the same success mixing the two groups, said Lt. Col. Debbie Henson, 153rd Mission



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Bob Watkins
Sgt. Greg Locke, 2nd Bn. 300th Field Artillery, provides back up to Tech. Sgt. Leslie Raney, 153rd Security Forces Squadron, as she checks IDs at the Wyoming Air National Guard's main gate in Dec.

Support Group director of support.

At a national security forces conference last year, Henson said the attendees were told a large majority of the units have seen huge attrition rates from the soldiers.

"I believe absorbing the soldiers into our different shifts really did make them feel part of the team," she said. "If you give people training and rely on them, trust them, they do a good job. This is an example of how good joint operations work."

Capt. Cory Jones, who serves as the Army National Guard unit commander, said the operation's success was the result of early cooperation among everyone involved. "We laid the ground work early. It was going to be our house, not the Air Force's house not the Army's house, and that really made a difference."

Creating a joint team wasn't a problem, according to three security personnel working the front gate one windy December day.

"Really the hardest thing to get used to was the lingo and

idiosyncrasies," said Tech. Sgt. Leslie Raney. Raney was deployed with the 153rd Security Forces Squadron to Saudi Arabia when the Army soldiers arrived on the base. "But I believe it's gone pretty well. If we didn't have them we would be working longer hours and not have as much time off."

Raney was on shift with fellow squadron member Staff Sgt. Brent Conrad and Army Sgt. Greg Locke, a member of the 2nd Bn. 300th Field Artillery. The three had an easy rapport, teasing and joking between duties.

"We call him 'Coal Miners' Daughter'," Raney said smiling and pointing to Locke. Before his activation Locke, a Gillette resident, worked in a coal mine.


Locke said he was anticipating his time at the Air Guard to be an easy one. "I thought it would be cake because the Air Force is not known for doing tough things. That hasn't been the case."

Locke and the other soldiers had to undergo basic law enforcement training, as well as participate in regular squadron exercises and special training events.

That training has meant the security forces personnel are comfortable leaving the soldiers to do much of the work when other priorities, like drill or annual training, arise, Jones said.

"To me that's the definition of success. Army and Air standing side by side and doing the same mission," he said.

Stephens said he will be sorry to see the soldiers go at the end of the year.

"We're making it one team, one fight," he said. "The National Guard is a melting pot. You have prior service Army special operation, prior service Navy and Marines. You take the best of all the worlds and make it work as a unit." 

Family Readiness Program positioned for future

By Bill Breckenridge

*State Family Readiness Program Coordinator
Wyoming National Guard*

take a moment to thank them for their outstanding support of our Wyoming military and their families.

As the new State Family Program Coordinator for the Wyoming National Guard, I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the many volunteers and military members who have contributed their time, energy, and talents to enhance the wellbeing of our soldiers, airmen, and their families. It is gratifying to know that people are so willing to assist in spite of their own busy schedules.

Wyoming Military Department Family Assistance Trust Fund

Thanks to the support and hard work of the Wyoming State Legislature, families of deployed personnel have somewhere to turn in times of financial hardship when all other resources have been explored.

The Wyoming Military Department Family Assistance Trust Fund allows dependents of Wyoming residents serving in the active duty component, National Guard or Reserve to apply for emergency grants.

Applicants must meet a variety of criteria before being eligible for the money.

Criteria include:

- The person must be in emergency financial need resulting from the member's active duty status.
- The assistance must be used as a last resort, following application to other emergency assistance providers.
- Funds can not be used to consolidate debt, pay for vacations, pay fines or legal expenses, or for home improvements or purchases.

Applications can be picked up in the State Family Readiness Program office in Cheyenne. The application packet also is available online at <http://wyoguard.state.wy.us/assistance.htm>.

Next time you see one of our legislators, please



Family Assistance Fund

The Wyoming National Guard Family Assistance Fund, a private organization, has been created.

Through this entity, volunteers will be able to obtain monetary support through the private sector. The funds will then be utilized to provide emergency financial assistance to members of the Wyoming National Guard.

The board of directors for this private organization will monitor the fund and oversee its use. The members are Robert W. Allen, Lloyd Koerwitz, Ed Boenisch,

Roger Schreiner and Jeri Griego.

This organization has the flexibility to pursue creative support possibilities, such as becoming a Combined Federal Campaign participant. This is a very exciting opportunity and should provide tremendous benefit to Wyoming's guard families.

Although the Wyoming National Guard Family Readiness Program will not be involved with the distribution of funds, nor will the program manage the private organization, the office will serve as a conduit of information between the organization and families.

Continuing Support

We have seen a number of personnel deployed over the last few months and we anticipate the deployment pace to continue. As our soldiers and airmen step up to answer the call, we will do everything we can to support their families so our personnel can remain focused on the difficult tasks at hand.

Bill Breckenridge retired from the Wyoming Air National Guard after 27 years of service. He has been an active volunteer with the Wyoming National Guard Family Readiness Program for 15 years, serving the last four as a

member of the State Advisory Council. He can be reached via e-mail at william.breckenridge@wy.ngb.army.mil.

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Robots invade Camp Guernsey

DoD program chooses Wyoming as site to test unmanned vehicles

By **Deidre Forster**

Public Affairs Officer

Wyoming National Guard

The plains and prairies around Guernsey, typically where the deer and antelope play, will soon be home to another breed: robots.

Camp Guernsey was chosen as one of six testing sites for the Office of Secretary of Defense Joint Robotics Program. The first testing of the program's robots at the camp is scheduled for spring.

Robots thin enough to slide beneath a car and check for bombs and robots light enough to perform aerial reconnaissance and robots sensitive enough to detect chemical weapons are among those that may be tested on Camp Guernsey's 33,000 acres.

"We are very excited to be partnering with DoD," said Col. Tim Sheppard, Camp Guernsey commander. "Our varied customer base will allow the robotics program engineers to test interaction with a variety of units, like field artillery, engineer and special operations groups."

The Joint Robotics Program, or JRP, is working to develop a variety of robots to carry out duties in place of, or in coordination with, military personnel. "Field testing at Camp Guernsey will help us ensure the robots are relevant to the 21st century soldier," said Cliff Hudson, JRP coordinator.

The University of Wyoming is also a partner in the project. Research scientists from the university will be conducting many of the studies.

Sites in California, Alaska, Hawaii, Florida and Virginia also will be used by the JRP to ensure the unmanned systems are operable in an array of climates over a variety of terrain.

Camp Guernsey's north training area with its steep

cliffs, winding valleys and wind-swept plains mirrors terrain found in many countries in which U.S. forces currently operate, including Afghanistan.


"Our vision for Camp Guernsey is for it to function as a premier joint training center. Robotics will be an integral component of future joint force," Sheppard said. "This places us at the forefront for training the future joint force."



Photo by Deidre Forster

Maj. Gen. Ed Wright, Wyoming's adjutant general, visits with (from left to right) University of Wyoming Vice President of the Office of Research William Gern, Joint Robotics Program Coordinator Cliff Hudson and Sen. Craig Thomas, at a Nov. news conference announcing Camp Guernsey had been chosen as one of six testing sites for the Department of Defense Joint Robotics Program. In front of the men is one of the robots, MATILDA, that will be tested at the camp.

"I am pleased that DoD feels Wyoming is capable of providing one of the critical environments needed to test and evaluate a wide spectrum of unmanned vehicles," said U.S. Sen. Craig Thomas. Thomas, Wyoming's senior senator, announced the partnership between Camp Guernsey, the university and the JRP at a news conference in November.

"These unmanned vehicles have become the new eyes and ears of our military which allows us to better control the battlefield, to precisely target the enemy, and minimize the probability of U.S. troop casualties. They are small, lightweight, agile and mobile vehicles which are the future of military intelligence technology," Thomas said. 

WANTED: 30 employers for bosslift



Do you know a civilian employer who has shown outstanding support for the National Guard and Reserve?

Do you think that civilian employer would enjoy learning more about the military missions of their National Guard and Reserve employees – on a trip to Pensacola, Fla.?

If so, the Wyoming Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve wants his or her name.

Pensacola is the next scheduled Wyoming ESGR National Bosslift. On June 9, 30 Wyoming National Guard and Reserve civilian employers will get a chance to travel, via Wyoming Air National Guard C-130, to learn about the U.S. Navy.

"The bosslift experience is a great way for civilian employers to become more acquainted with the military," said Janet Cowley, Wyoming ESGR state chairwoman.

"We may not be visiting Wyoming military personnel, but we are learning more about how they train and interact with other military organizations."

ESGR is a volunteer organization designed to educate National Guard and Reserve civilian employers on the important role they play in the nation's defense. Wyoming's group of 40 volunteers also educates employers and National Guard and Reserve personnel on the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act, known as USERRA, which protects from employment discrimination because of military obligations.

"Not only is this another type of reward for a civilian boss, an educational trip like this often helps those civilian employers who don't understand the need for extra training days away from their shop or why their employees are away again, to see the value of additional training. Don't think that a boss who is not supportive won't benefit from going on this


bosslift," Cowley said.

Last year civilian employers and local government officials spent two days in New Orleans. Previous bosslifts have taken employers to San Diego, Alaska and Wisconsin.

Sample agendas from Pensacola sent to Master Sgt. Randy Roberts, Wyoming ESGR bosslift coordinator, ensure this year Wyoming employers will be seeing, and participating in, a flurry of activities.

Roberts is working to include a stop at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, home to more than 130 aircraft and exhibits from all five branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Other activities may include a behind the scenes look at flight physiology training, water survival training and some time on a flight simulator.

Any Wyoming National Guard member can nominate someone to attend the bosslift. Attendees will be asked to cover their lodging and meal costs. The bosslift typically runs between \$175 and \$350, depending on lodging costs. 

Airman saves choking victim at Cheyenne restaurant

On Saturday, Dec. 20, 2003, Wyoming Air National Guard Master Sgt. Jurri Saddler and his wife, Hilda, were enjoying a late lunch at Sanford's Restaurant in downtown Cheyenne.

They had almost finished their meals when Saddler's wife told him a gentleman sitting behind the couple appeared to be choking.

Saddler, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the 153rd Medical Squadron public health section, turned around to see the gentleman's wife desperately trying to help her husband dislodge whatever food he was choking on, but she was not having any success.


He also noticed several young servers in the restaurant were just standing around watching. No one was offering to help, so he offered his assistance.

Saddler performed the Heimlich maneuver on the man. After seven abdominal thrusts the obstruction was

successfully dislodged. He offered to call an ambulance but the individual refused and indicated he was fine.

Both the gentleman and his wife expressed their gratitude numerous times for Saddler's assistance. Saddler said he felt very good about being able to help the man. The training he receives as a member of the medical squadron, and the fact he had just practiced and performed the Heimlich maneuver in refresher training during November drill, are what he attributed to his ability to respond to the situation.

Saddler said this incident made him realize how important this training is for everyone and that it really does save lives.

"I'm sure that gentleman and his wife who were just out for lunch on that Saturday would heartily agree," said Senior Master Sgt. Debra Goble, 153rd Medical Squadron health systems supervisor. 

133rd Engineer Company helps build border barriers

Story and Photos by Sgt. Kevin S Abel
Wyoming Army National Guard Visual Information

DEMING, N.M. – Residents of Deming are no strangers to the military or the Wyoming Army National Guard.

During the Punitive Expedition 1916 - 1917, President Woodrow Wilson ordered 75,000 National Guardsmen to active duty, which included Wyoming Guardsmen. This was in response to the crossing of Pancho Villa and 1,500 of his men at Columbus, N.M. to seize the weapons of the 13th U.S. Cavalry.

This time around the 133rd Engineer Company was building high speed car barriers and repairing a low water crossing point as part of Task Force Lobos in partnership with the New Mexico National Guard. The intent was to assist the U.S. Border Patrol in stopping high speed crossings by drug smugglers and illegal immigrants driving their vehicles across the border in unmanned areas.

“The main focus is for training and the benefit is that U.S. Border Patrol gets a product out of it they can use to help with the defense of the area and secure it.” said Capt. Justin Hanson, New Mexico National Guard.

A partnership was formed that brought guard units from Wyoming and New Mexico together with U.S. Border Patrol that will make the border a harder place to cross. “We get some real world training in a real world environment” said Sgt Shawn Miller, 133rd Engineer Company.



Sgt. Brian Keenan welds bracing to the high speed barrier along the border near Columbus, N. M. during annual training as part of Task Force Lobos, New Mexico National Guard's Individual Readiness Training exercise.



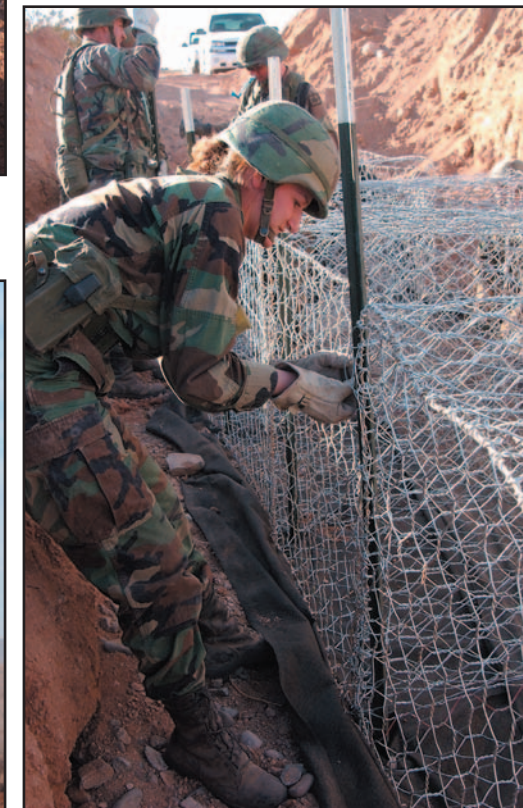
Pvt. Robbie Edmunds checks holes dug to place the high speed barrier pole in while a U.S. Border Patrol agent looks on providing security.



Sgt. Jessica Taylor directs the dumping of rock into the gabion baskets built at a low water crossing near Columbus, N. M.



133rd Engineer Company, Wyoming National Guard, road grader operators repair roads along the border near Columbus, N. M.



Spc. Trisha Thompson puts the final tie on a gabion basket at the low water crossing.

Wyoming National Guard deployments

MAFFS mission cut short by Mother Nature

The Wyoming Air National Guard sent two C-130s equipped with fire fighting equipment to Channel Island, Calif. to assist with fighting wild fires in that state in late October.

Lt. Col. Steve Anderson, mission commander, said the crews and planes, equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, dropped only a few loads of fire retardant before Mother Nature stepped in to mop up the fires.

Air Guard supports Operation Joint Forge

The Wyoming Air National Guard deployed 135 people and four of its C-130 aircraft to Ramstein Air Base, Germany for a 45-day mission on Nov. 29.

The mission was a scheduled deployment to relieve personnel currently serving as part of Operation Joint Forge, the United Nation's peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. The Wyoming personnel included aircrews, maintenance, communications and supply personnel.

All personnel returned to Cheyenne by Jan. 12.

UW athletic department adopts brigade

The University of Wyoming Athletics Department adopted the Wyoming Army National Guard's 115th Field Artillery Brigade, as a show of support for the deploying members.



Student athletes and coaches from the football, volleyball, wrestling and cheerleading teams autographed a university flag and donated sports equipment to the brigade prior to its Jan. 6 deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Before

deploying in January, the soldiers and athletes also posed for photos with the coveted Bronze Boot trophy, won by the UW football team in its annual game against Colorado State University.

The UW football team will wear a sticker of the brigade patch on their helmets during the 2004 football season.

The brigade has 59 soldiers stationed at various camps in Kuwait.

1022nd activated for OIF

The Wyoming Army National Guard's 1022nd Medical Company was ordered on Dec. 5 to activate

63 of its 149 soldiers for Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit's soldiers arrived in Kuwait at the end of February.

The unit is replacing the Maine National Guard's 112th Medical Company and is performing medical evacuation missions with that unit's UH-60 helicopters. The 1022nd's Blackhawks are expected to arrive in country in April.

This is the second long-term deployment for the unit in as many years. In 2003 the unit was deployed for eight months in support of Joint Task Force Civil Support.



Photo by Sgt. Kevin S Abel

Staff Sgt. John Lavery, 1022nd Medical Company, evaluates a patient during final validation training at Fort Carson, Colo. before deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Air Guard begins AEF cycle

The Wyoming Air National Guard has begun a three month Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

More than 100 personnel will deploy through May for 30, 45, 60, or 90 days, depending on mission requirements.

"The duration of the AEF deployments depends on the military operations being supported," said Col. Harold Reed, 153rd Airlift Wing commander. "Because they will be



supporting two large-scale military operations, most of our people will deploy for longer than the two or four weeks typical of previous AEF cycles."

Battalion deploys for security mission

The 2nd Bn. 300th Field Artillery Regiment deployed 182 soldiers to perform an In Lieu of Military Police mission as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The soldiers, most of whom are junior enlisted personnel, will receive six-to-eight weeks of training at Fort Dix, N.J. before deploying overseas.

While performing their ILO mission, the soldiers

will perform route reconnaissance, route security, check point operations and other maneuver and mobility support missions.

The group left Casper on Feb. 27. As with other recently deployed Wyoming Army National Guard units, their initial orders placed them on duty for 545 days.

ANG begins two-year OIF commitment

During the next two years, the Wyoming Air National Guard will rotate personnel and equipment in and out of the Kuwait area to provide airlift support for U.S. forces.

The first group of people left Cheyenne on Feb. 17 via C-130. Gov. Dave Freudenthal and Maj. Gen. Ed Wright were on hand for the early morning deployment to wish the group a safe mission and speedy return.

Although members have been deploying for Operation Iraqi Freedom since the operation began last year, this is the first wing-wide tasking to support the operation. The last wing-wide order was for an eight-month commitment to Operation Enduring Freedom. More than 300 people and five C-130s were deployed to Oman for that mission.



Photo by Sgt. Kevin S Abel

1st Lt. Terry Jenkins gives a final salute before boarding a plane that will take the unit to the mobilization station at Fort Dix, N. J.

Volk Field deployment prompts bosslift

Wyoming Air National Guard members will deploy to Volk Field, Wis. in August. The Wyoming Committee for Employer Support of the National Guard and Reserve is planning to take civilian employers along.

"The warfighting exercises at Volk Field will give the civilian employers a perfect opportunity to watch our Wyoming Air National Guard airmen in action," said Janet Cowley, state chairwoman for Wyoming's ESGR committee. "The Air Guard has always been an integral part of our bosslift program, and we felt Volk Field will allow us to showcase the organization even more."

Civilian employers are chosen for a bosslift from two sources: My Boss is a Patriot awards and referrals from their National Guard employees.

The Volk Field bosslift can accommodate up to 30 civilian employers. All Wyoming National Guard personnel are encouraged to nominate their civilian

employers for the trip; however, first preference will be given to Wyoming Air National Guard civilian employers.

"Our committee tries to do two bosslifts each year, one outside the state and one within Wyoming's borders," said Master Sgt. Randy Roberts, bosslift coordinator. "Even though we are taking employers to Wisconsin, we view this as an in-state bosslift because we are focusing on our Air Guard."

Wyoming Air National Guard members are encouraged to nominate their civilian employers for the upcoming Volk Field

Bosslift on Aug. 18-19 by e-mailing Roberts at randy.roberts@wy.ngb.army.mil.



Recognize your boss for his or her support of National Guard and Reserve members. Nominate him for a "Patriot Award." Go to <http://www.esgr.com> for more information.

Troops-to-Teachers program fills a need

The Troops-to-Teachers program was initially established in 1994 to address force restructuring in the military. Now it is designed to address actual and projected nationwide teacher shortages.

The Troops-to-Teachers program fills a need by adding to the diversity of the teachers in the classroom. Over half of the program participants who have been placed have found employment at the elementary and middle school levels. A large percentage, 85.8 percent, are males, which has served to improve the gender balance within the lower grades and has provided much needed male role models.

Nationally the U.S. Department of Education figures indicate that 2.2 million additional teachers will need to be hired over the next decade to keep pace with teacher retirements and the growth in student populations around the country.

Military veterans have established a reputation as excellent teachers and exemplary role models for today's students. The leadership skills, breadth of experience, dedication, commitment and maturity that former Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen bring to the classroom are attributes sought by public school administrators and parents.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

RC -1: Retired from the National Guard or a reserve component.

RC-2: Currently serving in National Guard or reserve component with 10 or more years of creditable service toward retirement; commit to serving an additional three years, or until eligible for retirement

RC -3: Separated from the National Guard or reserve component due to a physical disability on or after Jan. 8, 2002; must register with the program within four years after separation.

RC-4: Transitioning from active duty on or after Jan. 8, 2002, and have served six years on active duty immediately before separation; commit to three years with a selected reserve unit; must register within four years after separation.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The 2002 U.S. Department of Education appropriation bill has funded Troops-to-Teachers at \$18 million.

Approximately \$14 million of that will be available to eligible program participants as stipends (up to \$5,000) to defray the costs of certification, and/or bonuses (up to \$10,000) for those who commit to teaching in "high needs" schools for a minimum of three years.

STATE OFFICES

Wyoming National Guard Education Office

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shellie Franklin

5500 Bishop Blvd.

Cheyenne, WY 82009

The Montana & High Plains Troops-to-Teachers office is a regional consortium servicing Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. The


program helps connect individuals with information, institutions and people to can help participants navigate meeting state certification requirements and ultimately find a teaching position.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Routes to certification often present the most challenging step to becoming a teacher. Many states offer alternative certification programs that provide less time-consuming routes to certification than more traditional master's degree programs. Most of these alternative programs enable an individual to enter a paid teaching position while working under the mentorship of a master teacher.

To be eligible for these programs, individuals must have a concentration of academic credit in a specific subject area such as mathematics, social studies, science, etc. Wyoming has a portfolio based certification option.

Individuals with vocational-technical skills may find employment opportunities in many states. In general, certification for vocational-technical subjects require five or more years of recent, related experience. Many schools need teachers in areas such as electronics, building trades, automotive maintenance, etc. Again, state offices can provide specific information and qualification criteria.

For more information, go online <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com> or <http://www.montana.edu/ttt/> 

Wyoming Guard News Briefs

Personnel of the year chosen

Spc. Emmy Lou J. Jones, 20, was chosen as the Wyoming Army National Guard Soldier of the Year. Jones is an associate recruiter for the Wyoming Army National Guard, in Laramie.

Senior Airman Leslie Moore, 36, was named Wyoming Air National Guard Airman of the Year. Moore is a satellite communications technician in Cheyenne with the 153rd Command and Control Squadron.

Staff Sgt. Michael S. McGee, 25, was named Wyoming Army National Guard NCO of the Year. McGee is an Active Guard and Reserve recruiter in Laramie with the State Recruiting and Retention Command.

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Stevens, 30, was named Wyoming Air National Guard NCO of the Year. Stevens is an aeromedical technician with the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

Capt. Susan Pomeroy, 46, was named Wyoming Air National Guard Company Grade Officer of the Year. Pomeroy is a nurse and a medical service corps officer with the 153rd Medical Squadron.

C-130 crew assists with private plane crash

A C-130 crew on a training flight on Feb. 6 assisted law enforcement officials in locating a downed Cessna on cloud-covered Elk Mountain.

The crew spent about five hours flying overhead refining coordinates for the rescue crews before the clouds broke enough for them to actually see the crash.

"We got lucky there was a small window when the clouds cleared and we could pinpoint coordinates. We had time to make four passes before the clouds rolled back in," said flight engineer Master Sgt. Bryan Beyer, who added the experience was a rewarding one. "We are the Wyoming Air National Guard. One of our jobs is to take care of our community."

Biathlon team wins bronze medals

The Wyoming Army National Guard Biathlon Team took home six bronze medals from the U.S. Western Regional National Guard Championship in West Yellowstone, Mont. in December.

Team members Maj. Brian Pruiett, Sgt. Keith Spencer, Spc. Nathan Hansen and Cadet Rebecca Connell took third place in the 7.5-kilometer team relay. Connell and Hansen also were awarded bronze medals in individual races.

Pruett is a member of Headquarters, State Area

Command, Spencer and Connell are attached to the 133rd Engineer Company. Hansen is a member of Battery B, 2nd Bn. 300th Field Artillery.

DISCOVER program is online

The DISCOVER program is available from the Wyoming National Guard Education Office.

The Discover program is the first step in the career planning process by helping people make long-range goals. By combining the best of career planning theory and practice, DISCOVER can provide much of the base knowledge that is needed by a decision-maker to identify occupations, programs of study and training options, and to prepare for job placement.

For more information, contact Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shellie Franklin, Wyoming National Guard education officer at (307) 772-5262.

Airman chosen for NGB award

Master Sgt. Jurri Saddler, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 153rd Medical Squadron's public health section, was recently selected by National Guard Bureau as the 2003 Air National Guard Outstanding Public Health Airman of the Year.

In the nomination form to National Guard Bureau, Lt. Col. Stan Bruntz, medical squadron commander, said Saddler serves as an example to everyone in the Wyoming Air National Guard.

"Master Sgt. Saddler's support of the 153rd Airlift Wing is second to none," he said. "As NCOIC of public health, he is always ready to respond to critical current issues and is never satisfied with business as usual. He always seeks to implement program improvements."

Saddler is now in the running to be chosen as the U.S. Air Force Outstanding Public Health Airman of the Year.

Wings of Blue here on July 28

The U.S. Air Force Academy's Wings of Blue jump team will perform during the Wyoming Air National Guard open house on July 28.

The group is one of several performances scheduled as part of the day's events. Information booths, equipment and static aircraft displays – including the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds – are scheduled for the free public event.

Parking will be provided at Frontier Mall. Shuttle bus service will begin at 8 a.m. For more information go to <http://wyoguard.state.wy.us/air/openhouse.htm>.

Legislature

From Page 1

Guernsey's future as a premier training site.

"If a real estate developer bought the land, for example, there is high potential for encroachment issues in the vicinity of live fire impact and maneuver areas," he said.

The appropriation also includes a one-time cost of \$500,000 for administrative and environmental costs associated with the purchase.

The legislature also supported the department's request for \$1.9 million to help clean lead from armories around the state; however the final appropriation was dropped to \$1 million. In September, Wright closed the four active indoor firing ranges to training and restricted access for children under 7 and pregnant women to drill halls around the state pending funds to clean armories and indoor firing ranges to proper environmental standards.


Although legally no building poses a hazard, the decision to proactively reduce lead levels in the buildings

pleased the legislators saw the advantages purchasing land have to Camp

to protect the safety of community users, the work force and family members, was deemed the best thing for the Wyoming Military Department to do, Wright said.

Other items of interest the legislature supported include:

- A change in state statute allowing members of the Wyoming National Guard to use the legislatively-approved 100 percent tuition assistance as soon as they enlist. Previously a member could use the program only after attending basic training, which in some cases doesn't happen for a year or more.
- An approval for the Veterans' Commission to expand veteran support services around the state by adding another full-time employee.
- An intent for the department to receive \$500,000 of the state's major maintenance appropriation for facilities.
- Supporting development of a master plan for the Oregon Trail State Veterans' Cemetery.

"This was an exceptional legislative session. The legislators have shown generosity and sincere support for our men and women in uniform," Wright said. 

Wyo. Air Guard history easily accessible

By Staff Sgt. Mike Abrams

Historian, Wyoming Air National Guard

The 153rd Airlift Wing's Heritage Room sits tucked away on the northeast corner of the second floor of Building 16. It's maintained by the Wyoming Air Guard Heritage Society, incorporated in January 1987 by Mel Duncan, Dale Frederick, and William Sara. Senior Master Sgt. Milo Dawson is the current curator.

The heritage room currently serves as a repository for many unit artifacts including photos, uniforms, and military equipment. The collection includes the original Army Air Forces order from August 1946 creating the 187th Fighter Squadron.

Other memorabilia includes photos and newspapers from the unit's activation to Clovis, New

Mexico during the Korean War, and numerous pictures covering the F-51, F-86, and C-121 eras. More modern displays include information on Operation Desert Storm and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Uniforms currently displayed include modern desert BDU, Desert Storm desert BDU, Air Force dress gabardine uniform from the 1950-60s,

a Desert Storm circa flight suit, Women's Air Force summer blue chord uniform from the 1970's, Air Force men's class A circa 1978, World War II leather flight suit with electric liner, and a World War II wool Army Air Forces class B uniform.


The Heritage Room is available for viewing during all weekend drill periods, and by appointment. All are encouraged to visit to glimpse a part of the unit's past. Donation or loan of historic items is also encouraged. 



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Bob Watkins

Senior Master Sgt. Julie Swearingin takes time out to browse the collection of memorabilia in the Wyoming Air National Guard Heritage Room, located on the second floor of Building 16.

Promotions and Retirements

Promotions processed during the first and second quarters of fiscal year 2004:

Army Guard

Pvt. Joseph Ackerman
Pvt. Matthew Lemieux
Pvt. Sadie Graff
Pvt. Jeremiah Maker
Pvt. Brian Wilson
Pvt. Jedidiah Lauer
Pvt. Terry Kellhofer
Pvt. Michael Reisig
Pvt. Troy Siddle
Pvt. Adam Pauli
Pvt. Matthew Coughanour
Pvt. Issac Whitaker
Pvt. Daniel Detavernier
Pvt. Alex Carmody
Pvt. Eric Becker
Pvt. Thomas Pafford
Pvt. Tristen Everett
Pvt. Michael Christopherson
Pvt. Michael Mickelson
Pvt. Drew Cotton
Pvt. Caleb Hanneman
Pvt. David Wells
Pvt. Nash Quinn
Pvt. Robert Jibben
Pvt. Kent Parker
Pfc. John Ellis, HHB
Pfc. Andrew McAdams
Pfc. Gregory Osler
Pfc. Joshua Hernandez
Pfc. Andrew Lambert
Pfc. Jeremiah Eaton
Pfc. Robbie Edmunds
Pfc. Devin Osburn
Pfc. Paul Buettner
Pfc. Zackery Hauf
Pfc. Brian Hiser
Pfc. Sarah Stannard
Pfc. Ryun Hendrickson
Pfc. Shawn Wilkerson
Pfc. Jason Lutz
Pfc. Cynthia Johnson
Pfc. Velvet Jensen
Pfc. Bradley Murphy
Pfc. Derek Tippetts
Spc. Tyrell Peterson
Spc. Takrista Yizar
Spc. Christina Nielsen
Spc. Cody Henley
Spc. Erica Blooding
Spc. Aaron Feagler
Spc. Daniel Long
Spc. Lacy Jones
Spc. Shannon Cole
Spc. Steven Merkley
Spc. Christopher Wilson
Spc. David Reynolds
Spc. Katie Smathers
Spc. Andrew Wilson
Spc. Eric Rice
Spc. Richard Ridens
Spc. Robert Combs
Spc. Christopher Macduff
Spc. Bryant Radkey
Spc. Jared Campbell
Spc. Scott Turner
Spc. Chance Nelson
Spc. Lane Larsen
Spc. Brock Roush
Spc. Ronald Goodman
Spc. Scott Fletcher
Spc. Geoffrey Watts
Spc. William Burbridge

Spc. Craig Brown
Spc. Craig Bear
Spc. Johnny Taylor
Spc. Shaun Huff
Spc. Charlie Crowley
Spc. Mandi Lewis
Spc. Travis Patzer
Spc. Larry Schifferns
Spc. Zachery Baker
Spc. Thomas Wylie
Spc. Jason Baldwin
Spc. William Thompson
Spc. Ryan Larsen
Spc. Joshua Remillong
Spc. Russell Graham
Sgt. Sean Davis
Sgt. Alexander Fisher
Sgt. Raymond Hiegel
Sgt. Elizabeth Zimmerman
Sgt. Brett Bird
Sgt. Wayne Smith
Sgt. Athena Martinez
Sgt. Angela Ballou
Sgt. Arica Stevermer
Sgt. Evan Bock
Sgt. Christopher Johnson
Sgt. Thomas Sparks
Sgt. Justin Pfeiffer
Sgt. Sean Howie
Sgt. Terry Quail
Sgt. Brent Shaw
Sgt. Timothy Brothers
Sgt. William Haynes
Sgt. Daniel Long
Sgt. Mark Hansen
Sgt. Nicholas Caywood
Sgt. Daryl Jackson
Sgt. Jeremy Fitzwater
Sgt. Charles Wall
Sgt. Gary Main
Sgt. Kenneth Byrne
Sgt. Charles Petty
Sgt. Dale Herrman
Sgt. Eric Barker
Sgt. Jeremy Taper
Sgt. John Rosier
Sgt. Zachary Melneck
Sgt. Kenneth Peasley
Sgt. Bruce Dempster
Sgt. Matthew Icanberry
Sgt. Christopher Rudd
Sgt. Clifton Bittner
Sgt. David Sheppard
Sgt. Wade Jameson
Staff Sgt. Mary Brown
Staff Sgt. James Swan
Staff Sgt. Justin Maze
Staff Sgt. John Sierocki
Staff Sgt. Brandin Benson
Staff Sgt. Andrea Rockey
Staff Sgt. Rex Lundman
Staff Sgt. Joshua Artery
Staff Sgt. Eric Morris
Staff Sgt. Erik Stevens
Staff Sgt. Robert Lejeune
Staff Sgt. Sean Storrud
Staff Sgt. Jason Kinder
Staff Sgt. Terry Bankert
Staff Sgt. Joshua Phillips
Staff Sgt. Shawn Meline
Staff Sgt. James Keller
Staff Sgt. Shane Wilson
Staff Sgt. Jared Nicholls
Staff Sgt. Patricia Hampton
Staff Sgt. Randy Harvey
Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rabago
Staff Sgt. Gary Herring
Staff Sgt. Devin Worman
Staff Sgt. John Sleep

Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Martinez
Sgt. 1st Class Leslie Balcom
Sgt. 1st Class Terry Carpenter
Sgt. 1st Class Diane Smith
Sgt. 1st Class David Bremer
Sgt. 1st Class Rodger Harder
Sgt. 1st Class Martin Albright
Sgt. 1st Class Tim Metro
Sgt. 1st Class Brent Frimml
Sgt. 1st Class Richard Lafolette
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Holzerland
Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Houk
Sgt. 1st Class William Lewis
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Morss
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Mohring
Sgt. 1st Class Irving Coutts
Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Ambrose
Sgt. 1st Class Ruth Zellner
Master Sgt. John Woolery
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steven Higgins
1st Lt. Scott Morey
1st Lt. Fred Nasredine
1st Lt. Jason Warr
1st Lt. Rodney Rogers
1st Lt. Frank Negri
1st Lt. Martha Swattrobison
Capt. Nona Nissen
Capt. Eric Palen
Maj. James Jones
Maj. Gregory Phipps
Maj. Robert Fisk
Maj. Norman Patterson
Lt. Col. Richard Knowlton
Lt. Col. Shon Dermody

Air Guard

Senior Airman Jerrod Cleveland
Senior Airman William Crandall
Senior Airman Lorie Duncan
Senior Airman Robert Gershmel
Senior Airman Michael Jacobs
Senior Airman Matthew Kline
Senior Airman Rodney Massengill
Senior Airman Rusty Ridley
Senior Airman Nathan Robillard
Senior Airman James Rupert
Senior Airman Edward Miller
Senior Airman Johnny Tafoya II
Senior Airman Jatia Weston
Senior Airman Billy McGinnis
Senior Airman Zachary Austin
Staff Sgt. Cameron Beck
Staff Sgt. Kelly Bouquet
Staff Sgt. Donald Carter
Staff Sgt. Michael Coughenour
Staff Sgt. Paul Green
Staff Sgt. Joshua Johnson
Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Sharpe
Staff Sgt. William Sitterle Jr.
Staff Sgt. Thomas Turner Jr.
Staff Sgt. Peri Robinett
Staff Sgt. Todd Farricker
Staff Sgt. Heather Schaffer
Staff Sgt. Nathan Young
Tech. Sgt. John Bellamy
Tech. Sgt. Rick Broberg
Tech. Sgt. Exie Brown Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Robert Brown Jr.
Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Collins
Tech. Sgt. Flynn Dillon
Tech. Sgt. Melissa Emery
Tech. Sgt. Leora Fulwider
Tech. Sgt. Michael Hays
Tech. Sgt. Shawn Hendricks
Tech. Sgt. Mario Martinez
Tech. Sgt. Jonathon Pearce
Tech. Sgt. Sharon Richardson
Tech. Sgt. Noelle Robert

Tech. Sgt. Melissa Stevens
Tech. Sgt. Gail White
Tech Sgt. Jay Hollman
Tech Sgt. Shane Mazur
Tech. Sgt. Joseph Johnson
Tech. Sgt. Matthew Wombaker
Tech. Sgt. Kevin Ryel
Tech. Sgt. Arlin Dechaney
Tech. Sgt. Eric Farmer
Tech. Sgt. Mark Barnes
Tech. Sgt. Shane Larson
Tech. Sgt. Teresa Johnson
Tech. Sgt. Emily Cantrell
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Liddle
Master Sgt. Lucille Brown
Master Sgt. Kathryn Dixon
Master Sgt. Kevin Guillory
Master Sgt. Chad Holmes
Master Sgt. Heidi Kimsey
Master Sgt. Richard Kneesebeck
Master Sgt. Daniel Leary
Master Sgt. Julie Majorfrunz
Master Sgt. Brian Moomey
Master Sgt. Alan Stoinski
Master Sgt. Wayne Sexton
Master Sgt. Russell Rowley
Master Sgt. Richard Cruz
Master Sgt. Darlyn Tucker
Master Sgt. Kathleen Michelle
Master Sgt. Michele Henning
Senior Master Sgt. Milissa Alacca
Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Fisher
Senior Master Sgt. Travis Miller
Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Webber
Senior Master Sgt. Gilbert Waddell Jr.
Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Farrell Jr.
Senior Master Sgt. Carmen Portera Jr.
Senior Master Sgt. Lee Villeneuve
Chief Master Sgt. Allen Mills
1st Lt. Katharine Books
Capt. Jack Berquist
Capt. Patricia Chavez
Capt. Brian Diehl
Capt. Kevin Schrank
Capt. Scott Simon
Capt. James Williams
Capt. Lola Stephens
Maj. Donald Beplay
Maj. Darron Hanzlik
Maj. Barbara Ketcham
Maj. Susan Hiller
Maj. Scott Mattson
Lt. Col. Bruce Rowe

Retirements processed during the first quarter of fiscal year 2004:

Army Guard

Sgt. Alan Wardell, 20 years
Sgt. Albert Bradburn, 20 years
1st. Sgt. Richard Blanchard, 20 years
Staff Sgt. Dexter Meador, 21 years
Sgt. 1st Class Ron Culver, 21 years
Staff Sgt. Gary Brinkman, 21 years
Sgt. 1st Class Keith Hess, 23 years

Air Guard

Master Sgt. Myron Matterson, 21 years
Tech. Sgt. Jonathan Michelle, 21 years
Tech. Sgt. Leesa England, 23 years
Tech. Sgt. Robert Farnsworth, 27 years
Chief Master Sgt. William Breckenridge, 27 years
Chief Master Sgt. Gerald Egge, 27 years
Master Sgt. Lyle Orr, 30 years
Tech. Sgt. Donald Hanson, 33 years
Chief Master Sgt. Narciso Soriano Jr., 36 years
Master Sgt. Adam Garcia Jr., 38 years

Operation Baby Lift

From Page 1

tour of duty, the captain joined his wife and children in Utah, prepared to drive them to their home station at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. However, a medical release for the quadruplets to travel the long distance by car would not be granted for two more months, the grandfather said.

Kearl placed a call to his old unit at the Wyoming Air National Guard because, he said, he knew the 187th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron had the professionals and capability to transport the quadruplets safely cross-country.

Senior Master Sgt. Julie Swearingin, an aeromedical evacuation technician with the squadron said when the request came, the group jumped at the possibility of taking the mission.

"We were excited and said 'yes' because this was an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to care for quads," she said.

The flight, scheduled for Nov. 18, was conducted as part of a training mission for the flight nurses and medical technicians, allowing them to train while caring for the tiny patients.

To ready the C-130 for its fragile cargo, pediatric flow meters, donated for the flight by Lin Care of Cheyenne, had to be installed. The meters would track the flow of liquid oxygen three of the infants were using to assist their breathing. The squadron's flow meters



Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Lyon

Senior Airman Jodi Smith, medical technician, feeds one of the babies during the aeromedical evacuation mission from Utah to North Carolina.

aren't designed to break down into the smaller increments needed for the babies. Liquid oxygen machines are not approved for commercial air travel; they are approved for C-130 use.

The medical crew for the mission was chosen for its expertise. "We have more than 70-years of infant care experience," said Lt. Col. Marianne Viner, a pediatric nurse with the squadron. Viner was one of the team of pediatric and neonatal nurses, critical care nurses, respiratory therapists, emergency medical technicians and medical technicians on the flight. In all, the infants were outnumbered almost two to one.

Their expertise ensured an uneventful flight to North Carolina for the infants, their parents and two older brothers, Tanner, 3, and Hunter, 2.

A follow-up call at the babies' 2-month mark found all were doing very well.

The boys no longer require oxygen, and the children are growing quickly.

The boys each weighed close to 10 pounds and Cassie was catching up at 8.5 pounds. Understandably, their mom said she is tired from many sleepless nights, but both parents are thankful for the excellent support provided by the members of the Wyoming Air National Guard, she said.

Swearingin said the mission was a wonderful experience for every squadron member. "It was a chance to airlift the family back home to be together not only in time for the holidays but to be together period. Without our airlift, dad would have had to return home without the family. How can you not feel good about that?"



Photo by Master Sgt. Dan Lyon

Maj. Juliet Medina, a flight nurse, comforts one of the quadruplets during the flight with the help of Lt. Lisa Anderson, also a flight nurse with the squadron.